DeKalb County, IN
Will Index

Taken from issues of DEKALB DIGGINGS,
the Quarterly Newsletter of the
DEKALB COUNTY INDIANA GENEALOGY SOCIETY,
1995-1997

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Genealogy

Diana Best, from the DeKalb County Board Of Health, kindly put together an information and sample packet about the Board of Health. We would like to thank her for her time and assistance to DeKalb genealogy researchers.

DEKALB COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

DeKalb County Office Bldg., 215 East Ninth-Suite 201, Auburn, IN 46706 Phone 925-2220 or 925-2267

Certified Birth Certificates are $5.00 and $1.00 for each additional copy of the same record.
Certified Death Certificates are $6.00 and $2.00 for each additional copy of the same record.
Genealogy Sheets (Death only) are $3.00 each. The Genealogy Sheet contains more information than a Death Certificate. It also lists the deceased's address, father's name, mother's name, informant's name, address, and relationship, who the form was completed by and occupation.
The Health Department is open Monday through Friday from 8:30-4:30 P.M. Holiday closings are announced in the Evening Star. We have old school records available from 1887 through 1932 and some naturalization papers. Only birth records for children born to parents married at the time of birth are available. Our birth and death records date back to 1882. Index books are available in our office to the public for genealogy purposes.

WILLS

Many times in my search for ancestors, I have found that one of the most important records to locate is the probate records or court records that were filed after the death of that person. The type of probate record that I want to focus on at this time is the "testate" records. Testate means that a person died and left a valid will. DeKalb wills are located in the County Clerk's Office and some wills are located in the Recorder's Office. Land, property was very important to our ancestors; therefore, some wills are actually deeds to heirs for the property they owned. I am not an authority on probate records. If you have additional questions about probate records, please direct questions to the DeKalb County Clerk's Office.

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Many times in my search for ancestors, I have found that one of the most important records to locate is the probate records or court records that were filed after the death of that person.

The type of probate records that I want to focus on at this time is the "wills" records. Texas law states that a person died and left a will with. Deeds wills are located in the County Clerk's Office and some wills are located in the Recorder's Office. Land property was very important to our ancestors; therefore, some wills are actually deeds to lands for the property they owned. I am not an authority on probate records. If you have additional questions about probate records, please direct questions to the Bexar County Clerk's Office.

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Many of the actual wills from Will Book 2 and 3 were almost completely destroyed by the early courthouse fire. Many of these names do not have a complete will, only a name and very brief comment.

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MARCH 6, 1900 - JANUARY 18, 1908

Index submitted by Ruth Camarata, typed and arranged alphabetically from the Will Book #4 located in the DeKalb County Clerk's office in the Courthouse. (Election is a choice of administering the will differently than written within the law..)

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WILLS
IN THE DEKALB COUNTY
RECORDER'S OFFICE

In the DeKalb County Clerk's Office, the first room, is another will index titled "Will Index-DeKalb County, Indiana 1852-1912". When you open the book, Ditch Record is written at the top. This is a different Will Record Book than the will indexes published before in this newsletter. Troas Wise compiled a copy of this index that is available at the Eckhart Library. Most of the names recorded in this index are the same as those recorded in Will Books 1, 2&3, 4 & 6, but many do not have a book or page number. There are some names that have a date filed, and instead of Will Record Book number and page number have Recorder's Office, book and page number. These are wills recorded in the Deed Records in the Recorder's Office. The following list is compiled and alphabetized from these references to wills in Deed Records in the Recorder's Office. An attempt was made to be as accurate as possible with the actual will checked when the reference was incomplete or name questionable. Every will in this list was not checked for accuracy. Sometimes a name was listed in this will index but when you look in the deed book the will was not for that person, they were an heir of the will. Sometimes the will was listed in both a Will Record Book and a Deed Record Book.

This is still not a complete list of all the wills in the Recorder's Office. To look for a will in the Recorder's Office you must look in the General Index to Deed Records- Grantor, within approximately five years of your ancestor's death. The index is only alphabetized for the first letter of the surname. Look under the column type of deed, for a will. Then follow across to where it lists the Deed Book and page number. The index to each deed book itself only lists a name and page number. There are also wills listed in the Miscellaneous Books A through ?. Each book covers certain years. Some wills may be listed in the index of the book but not all, it mostly just gives names and page numbers. You really need to know a date of death to do a good search for your ancestor's will. The Court House fire in 1913 destroyed many Clerk's Office Records but not Recorder's Office Records. Some names that had "badly burned" beside the name in the Will Record Index were complete in the Deed Book. Most wills are in the Clerk's Office but it may be worth a try to look at these land records if you have been unable to find a will elsewhere.

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Index researched and submitted by Ruth CAMARATA, typed and arranged alphabetically from the Ditch Record Will Index-DeKalb County, Indiana 1852-1912.

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Addition to the Clerk's Office Article

Barbara Haynes, Deputy Microfilm Clerk, DeKalb County Indiana Clerk's Office, would like to add the following to the Clerk's Office article on page 11 of the last issue of DEKALB DIGGINGS (VOL.III NO.1 Spring 1997) : ***All Juvenile Records*** are confidential. ***Civil Adoptions*** prior to July 7, 1941 are different from Juvenile Records.

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Federation of Genealogical Societies FORUM, VOL.9 NO 1, SPRING 1997, P.37.

INDIANA - ***Adoptions*** that occurred in Indiana prior to July 7, 1941, are not subject to the "closed records law" in accordance with 1C5-14-3-4(a)(8) administrative rule 9 confidentiality of court records. These adoption records are open at the court in which the adoption was finalized. Persons seeking information on adoptions finalized after July 7, 1941, must file adoption forms with identification (drivers license), etc.) Attached with the Indiana State Department of Health. ISDH responds in four to six weeks with non-identifying information (birth date, weight and length at birth, etc.). If the party one is searching for has filed with the ISDH, by mutual consent the ISDH will issue identifying information to the filing parties. If the party does not receive identifying information, the court may be petitioned to have records opened to a guardian ad litem. The guardian ad litem researches the records and finds the party sought. Indiana law requires the party contacted must release medical information but until consent their identity is not released to the court.[*The Hoosier Genealogist* 36:4(December 1996) p.239.]

The following **WILLS** are found in the Miscellaneous Books at the DeKalb County Court House Recorders Office. They may be the same as the Wills located in the Clerk's office. But if the following names are one of your ancestors, it would be wise to look at both places. ~~Also, when~~ looking up deeds that were the result of estates. you may find wills attached.

The following are Wills found in **Miscellaneous Book A** in the Recorder's office.

Name	**Recorded**	**Page #**
ALLEBAUGH, SAMUEL	June 12, 1854	20
HARKRADER, MARY	Aug 7, 1863	254-255
HIGH, JOSEPH	Feb 19, 1855	22
Note on side of page "New will written May 31, 1860		
JONES, CALEB	July 8, 1857	73-74
JESUP, EBENEZER	June 9, 1854	15-19
SWIGART, ELISHA	Nov. 22, 1854	27

The following are Wills found in **Miscellaneous Book B** in the Recorder's office.

Name	**Recorded**	**Page #**
BUTLER, DAVID SR.	Mar 4, 1878	173,174
DILLIGNHAM, ALFRED	Apr 12,1882	284-286
HOFFMEIER, LOUIS	Mar 22, 1880	237
JONES, CALVIN	Sept 14, 1877	158
SHOWERS, MAHALA	April 10, 1885	454
SUTTON, R. B.	Oct 26, 1886	526-535
Note: This will taken out of office before proof read.		
WHITE, SAMUEL F	Oct 24, 1885	477
YOHE, CATHERINE	Aug 31, 1875	71-73
Note See Deed record AA Page 31, 32		

The following are Wills found in **Miscellaneous Book C** in the Recorder's office.

Name	**Recorded**	**Page #**
ANSLEY, ELIZABETH	June 12, 1888	108-109
CHILDS, WILLARD	June 14, 1890	282-283
DICKINSON, JULIA	Sept 29, 1892	505-509
DOVE, MARIAH	Nov. 3, 1892	523
FALES, ORANGE	Mar. 29, 1888	98-99
HAYNES, SAMUEL	Mar 27, 1889	173-174
PERRY, CURTIS	Apr 8, 1893	573
SMITH, WILLIAM L	Feb 23, 1893	565

The following are Wills found in **Miscellaneous Book D** in the Recorder's office.

Name	**Recorded**	**Page #**
HANES, CHARLES	May 25, 1895	245

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